

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ANDREW YOUNG NOMINATED UN AMBASSADOR

1. NEWS THAT ANDREW YOUNG NOMINATED UN AMBASSADOR WITH
CABINET RANK WIDELY REPORTED IN RSA DAILIES, DECEMBER 17.
SMALL BLURB IN MOST MORNING PAPERS. BY AFTERNOON, HOWEVER,
PAPERS SPLASHED NEWS AS FRONT-PAGE LEAD. TYPICAL WAS
JOHANNESBURG'S "THE STAR" WHICH HAD FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE
"AFRICA WEARY OF YOUNG, BUT....TOUGHER US LINE ON SOUTH
AFRICA." ARTICLE SAID "THE MOVE IS SEEN AS HERALDING A
SIGNIFICANT SHIFT OF EMPHASIS IN US POLICY TOWARD MAJORITY
RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA. ARTICLE QUOTED FROM YOUNG'S
REMARKS "I DON'T THINK WE CAN ASSUME THE MORAL LEADERSHIP
WITHOUT AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA." KEN OWEN REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON "TERMS OF
THE APPOINTMENT APPEAR TO MAKE SOUTHERN AFRICA A TOUCHSTONE
OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS A DEMONSTRATION
OF AMERICAN MORAL COMMITMENT. IN THIS,THE WORST FEARS OF
SAG - AND THE MOST AMBITIOUS HOPES OF ITS ENEMIES - WERE
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FULFILLED, IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT, FROM PLAINS OF THE APPOINTMENT,
MADE WHILE MANY SOUTH AFRICANS HERE WERE OBSERVING THE DAY OF
THE COVENANT....IT VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED THE FAILURE OF MR.
VORSTER'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON RHODESIA AND SWA. THE APPOINT-
MENT NOW GUARANTEES THAT SWAPO WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO
THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THE UN WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN A ROLE."

2. OTHER REPORTS FROM UN QUOTED AN AFRICAN DIPLOMAT SAYING THAT YOUNG WOULD ACT NOT AS A BLACK BUT AS AN AMERICAN AND THEREFORE "WHETHER HE COULD INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ON AFRICAN ISSUES REMAIN TO BE SEEN."

3. HUGH ROBERTON REPORTED FROM NEW YORK THAT AMBASSADOR PIC BOTHA "ANGRILY REBUKE" ANDREW YOUNG FOR LATTER'S REMARKS DURING TV INTERVIEW CRITICIZING SOUTH AFRICA. REPORT SAID AFTER FIRST DECLINING THE COMMENT, BOTHA "SPEAKING RSA AMBASSADOR" SAID "I DO NOT BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CONSIDER IT THE PRIME TASK OF THEIR UN AMBASSADOR TO SINGLE OUT SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY SOUTH AFRICA, AS A TARGET WHEN SO MANY ISSUES OF GLOBAL CONCERN REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION."

4. "DIE VADERLAND" AFRIKAANS AFTERNOON PAPER, DECEMBER 17 PLACED NEWS AS LESSER ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE. "PIK'S ADVICE TO THE BLACK AMBASSADOR WAS LEAD AND ARTICLE PREDICTABLY HIGHLIGHTED BOTHA'S ANGRY RETORT TO YOUNG ABOUT SINGLING OUT SOUTH AFRICA FOR CRITICISM. ARTICLE CITED FACT YOUNG CONFERRED WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE VANCE AND "THEY ALL AGREE" ON SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY.
HUGHES

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